

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 /059 W

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R 181358Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9599

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BB

SUBJ: CIVAIR: AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES BETWEEN US AND BARBADOS

REFS: (A) STATE 219155; (B) BTN 1573; (C) BTN 1575; (D) BTN 1635

SUMMARY

AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES REMAIN HIGH INTEREST ITEMS
HERE AS CARIB TOURISM ASSN MEETS, CAB OFFICIAL
ARRIVES, AND PRESUMABLY DEPARTS, THE BARBADOS LICENSE
AUTHORITY-AMERICAN AIRLINES STAND-OFF CONTINUES, AND
THE PM, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION, RETURNS
FROM AN EXTENDED TRIP AWAY FROM BARBADOS. AMBASSADOR
TACTFULLY PRODS PM TOWARDS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON AA
LICENSE. CAB ACTIONS RE BARBADOS AND PERSONNEL
INADVERTENTLY BYPASS EMBASSY CONTACT. END SUMMARY

1. AM GRATEFUL FOR REFTTEL(A) WHICH GAVE MUCH, AND IF
I MAY SAY SO, EAGERLY AWAITED AND DESIRABLE INFORMATION
ON THE SUBJECT. MY LONGSTANDING INTEREST IN AVIATION
MATTERS, IS CALLED TO THE FOREFRONT BY THE DEPARTURE
OF MY ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND ABSENCE AT ECONOFF
CONFERENCE OF MY DCM. THIS CABLE HOPES TO UPDATE ALL
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AND SUNDRY ON THE LATEST IN BARBADOS.

2. OTHER THAN REFTEL (C), WE HAD NO NOTICE OF THE SEPT 13 VISIT TO BARBADOS OF CAB'S WILLIAM B. CALDWELL, JR. (FOR MY INFORMATION, IS NOTICE FROM CAB OFFICIALS DOING BUSINESS ON POST A REQUIRED PROCEDURE, A COURTESY, OR WHAT?) I LEARNED THAT MR. CALDWELL WAS ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE CARIBBEAN TOURISM ASSOCIATION ON SATURDAY, AUG. 13, REGARDING OTC'S, PAN AM'S RIGHT TO BRING CHARTER GROUPS, THE CAB REQUIREMENT ON ALL 40 IN SUCH GROUPS STAYING AT SAME HOTEL, THE LACK OF US CARRIERS TO MARTINIQUE AND GUADALOUPE, AND INQUIRIES ON AMERICAN AIRLINES. THE REPORT IS THAT HE HANDLED THEM WELL.

3. AT THE CTA MEETING, GOB TOURISM MINISTER PETER MORGAN WAS RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN DESPITE HIS PROFFERED RETIREMENT, TO THE RELIEF OF AMERICAN AIRLINES MICHAEL YOUNGMAN, WHO HAD BEEN PRIMED FOR THE TOP SPOT. AN EDITORIAL IN THE BARBADOS ADVOCATE-NEWS WHICH CALLED FOR A WEST INDIAN TO HEAD CTA, HAD BEEN DISCREETLY PLANTED BY YOUNGMAN. ST. VINCENT'S MINISTER OF TOURISM GRAFTON ISAACS WAS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT. GOB HIGH COMMISSIONER TO UK, J. CAMERON TUDOR, AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR COURTNEY BLACKMAN MADE THOUGHTFUL, WELL RECEIVED SPEECHES.

4. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, AA VICE PRESIDENT CYRUS COLLINS AND MANAGER DAVID COOK VISITED WITH MY DCM AND ME AT EMBASSY. CY COLLINS KEEPS BOTH THE EMBASSY AND STATE DEPARTMENT WELL INFORMED, BUT I WILL HIGHLIGHT HIS LATEST POINTS: AA HAS, OF COURSE, SLIPPED ITS TIMETABLE TO OCTOBER 13, AND FACES MAJOR DECISIONS AFTER THE GOB AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY (ATLA) MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 23. OPTIONS ARE TO GAMBLE ON APPROVAL BY DECEMBER 1, OR FORGET BARBADOS FOR THE COMING TOURIST SEASON. HE RETURNS TO NEW YORK TODAY, (SEPT 16) AND TO BARBADOS ON MONDAY, SEPT 22, TO ATTEND HEARING. HE IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS COLLEAGUES TO FREE AA PERSONNEL AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR EQUALLY DEMANDING ROUTES. IN PASSING, HE MENTIONED FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEREST IN HAVING AA SERVE FRENCH WEST INDIES (MARTINIQUE AND GUADDLOUPE), AS ANOTHER POTENTIAL DIVERSION OF RESOURCES PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO BARBADOS. HE LATER CONFERRED WITH PM'S PERM SEC SAM CORBIN (SEPT 16) PREPARATORY TO RETURNING TO NEW YORK.

5. ON SEPT 15, AT A HASTILY CALLED PARTY BY PRIMIN BARROW, AFL/CIO LEADER FREDERICK O'NEAL, HIS

LONGTIME FRIEND, THE EVENING NEWS ON CBC-TV (CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING CORP) SHOWED THE PM TALKING ABOUT HIS AIR DIFFICULTIES WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S BWIA. THE IMBROGLIO AROSE OVER GOTT'S CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CARIBBEAN AIRWAYS (ICA) ROUTE TO USA WAS DESIGNED TO UNDERCUT BWIA. AFTER DISCLAIMING ANY SUCH INTENT, AND RECITING ON TV WHAT HE CONSIDERED AS DUPLICITY ON THE PART OF GOTT-BWIA WHERE BOAC ALLEGEDLY PAID BWIA NOT TO FLY TO LONDON, THERE ARE NOT ACCOMMODATING THOUSANDS OF HOMEWARD-BOUTND BARBADIANS, THE PM CONCLUDED THAT "THE ENTIRE GOTT IS PARANOID -- FROM THE TOPE DOWN." THE ANNOUNCER CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT "ICA WILL START FLYING INTO THE US LATER THIS YEAR."

AT A PROPITIOUS TIME, THE PM AND I CAME TOGETHER TO TALK, PRINCIPALLY ABOUT AVIATION. HE IMMEDIATELY LASHED OUT AT USG FOR ITS TREATMENT OF BARBADOS' APPLICATION, SAYING THAT IT SHOULDN'T TAKE EVEN A WEEK TO PROCESS IT; THAT GOB FOUGHT TO GET PANAM TO BARBADOS; GOB HAD TO SETTLE FOR LESSER ROUTES AFTER ITS ALTERNATIVES HAD BEEN BRUSHED ASIDE, AND HE WAS TIRED OF SUCH TREATMENT, THAT THEY (USG) COULD JUST WAIT ON AA. THIS SUBJECT WAS OBVIOUSLY AN EMOTIONAL ONE FOR THE PM, BORNE MORE OF FRUSTRATION THAN ANGER.

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 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 PA-01

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WITHOUT AGREEING ON ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN CAB PROCEDURES OR USG VIEWS, I TOOK THE QUIET TACT OF POINTING OUT WHAT I FELT TO BE A REAL DILEMMA FACING HIM: THAT WHILE ALL OF US ARE SEEKING MEANS TO EXPEDITE THE CAB PROCESSING, AND MAY GET SOME EARLIER DATE THAN OCTOBER 29 (SINCE CONFIRMED), I HAD TO BE CANDID AND DISABUSE HIM OF ANY THOUGHT THAT THE ICA MATTER WOULD BE RESOLVED THIS YEAR, POSSIBLY EVEN INCLUDING DURING THE "SEASON". IN ADDITION, THAT AA HAS OTHER OPTIONS, AND BUSINESS NEEDS, AND WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION SOON AS TO WHETHER TO FORGET BARBADOS FOR THE COMING SEASON. HENCE, THIS DILEMMA IS THAT HIS STRATEGY COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, AND HE MUST NOW FACE THE DECISION TO RELEASE AA, AND GIVE UP HIS "LEVERAGE" ON USG, OR CONTAIN AA AND FOREGO THE 1975/76 TOURIST SEASON. (AS NEXT YEAR IS ELECTION YEAR IN BARBADOS, I DIDN'T PUSH THE SUBJECT ANY FURTHER).

WE TALKED AGAIN THIS MORNING (SEPT 16) OVER HIS PERSONAL OFFICE TELEPHONE ON THAT SUBJECT, AND I PURSUED THE SAME TACT, CONFIRMING THE OCTOBER 3 DATE WITH CAB.

COLLINS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFERRED WITH PERM SEC CORBIN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO TOLD ME LATER THEY WERE GRATEFUL TO COLLINS FOR HIS HELP WITH USG-CAB, BUT COULD NOT SPEAK FOR ATLA. I HAVE NO FEEL, AT THIS POINT, OF HOW THE PM WILL RESOLVE HIS DILEMMA.

6. THE SEPT 16 ADVOCATE-NEWS ANNOUNCED A NEW ROUTE EXTENSION TO HOUSTON, TEXAS FOR BARBADOS - BASED CARIB WEST. ANOTHER RECENT ARTICLE ANNOUNCED THE MIAMI ROUTE AWARD TO CARIB WEST. (IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THE PM SOMETHING TO HANG HIS HAT ON BY A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EARLY HEARING AND CARIB'S ROUTE, BUT I CAN ONLY GUESS CAB GAVE THE INFO TO UPI, AND THE ADVOCATE- NEWS PICKED IT UP, LEAVING BOTH OF US (PM AND AMB) IN THE COLD).

7. COMMENT: ALL US PARTIES ARE COMMITTED TO KEEPING LOW TO AVOID A DIRECT GOB CONFRONTATION, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON ATLA AND ITS WEAKNESSES. IT IS GOOD HERE TO HAVE CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN AA, THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE EMBASSY, AS WE DEAL WITH BARBADOS' EARNEST DESIRE TO HAVE ITS "CARRIER" FLYING INTO THE U.S. THE PM DOES FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE GOB HAS BEEN BADLY MISTREATED. MY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH HIM ARE STILL HIGH AS WITNESSED BY WHAT STARTED OUT AS A

COCKTAIL PARTY FOR A LARGE GROUP, AND ENDED UP AS A
MIDNIGHT SNACK FOR FOUR OF US INCLUDING WIVES. MY
STRATEGY IS TO LAY OUT THE FACTS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO
LEAD HIM TO A DECISION, HOPEFULLY FAVORABLE TO AA,
AT THE SAME TIME BEING SUPPORTIVE (AS I THINK WE ALL
ARE) OF GOB ASPIRATIONS AIR-WISE. ON MY NEXT TRIP
TO STATE, WILL PLAN TO SPEND A CHUNK OF TIME WITH THE
CIVAIR PERSONS TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION.
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